

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0967

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5237

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU, CH, IN

SUBJ: VISIT TO INDIA AND CHINA BY AUSTRIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. AUSTRIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR REVIEWED RECENT VISITS BY
AUSTRIAN FONMIN KIRCHSCHLAEGER TO CHINA AND INDIA WITH
EMBOFF.

2. CHINA: CHINESE HAD EMPHASIZED THREAT OF EVENTUAL WAR
BETWEEN TWO "SUPERPOWERS" (US DESCRIBED ONLY AS -IMPERIALIST
POWER" WITHOUT BEING NAMED, WHILE SOVIETS SPECIFIED AS
"SOCIAL IMPERIALIST POWER, THE SOVIET UNION"). OTHER
STATES MUST AT ALL TIMES PREPARE THEMSELVES TO DEAL WITH
SUCH EVENTUALITY. CHINESE QUIETLY SUGGESTED AUSTRIANS
STRENGTHEN THEIR ARMED FORCES ('), AND ARGUED IMPORTANCE
OF EUROPEAN STATES REMAINING STRONG AND UNITED SINCE
THREE-FOURTHS OF SOVIET FORCES WERE DIRECTED AT EUROPE
AND ONLY ONE-FOURTH WERE YET FOCUSED AGAINST CHINA. FONMIN
WAS IMPRESSED BY CHINESE DEVELOPMENT AND DISCIPLINE,
PARTICULARLY APPARENT CONQUEST OF FAMINE. CHINESE POLICY
TOWARD US HAD NOT FIGURED SIGNIFICANTLY IN HIS DISCUSSIONS
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WITH CHINESE LEADERS. INDIA HAD NOT COME UP AT ALL EXCEPT

IN CONTEXT OF CHINESE OBSERVATION THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE
WAS STRONG HERE. CHINESE DID NOT OFFER HINT OF ANY
CHANGING POLICY TOWARD INDIA FOR FONMIN TO CARRY WITH HIM
TO NEW DELHI.

3. INDIA: FONMIN FOUND INDIA MUCH LESS IMPRESSIVE
ECONOMICALLY THAN CHINA, ALTHOUGH HE WAS STRUCK BY CONTRAST
BETWEEN OPENNESS OF INDIAN SOCIETY AND INTELLECTUAL
STERILITY OF CHINESE. IN BRIEF AND BLAND CONVERSATION WITH
MRS. GANDHI, SHE FOCUSED MAINLY ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL
PROBLEMS. SHE BLAMED COUNTRY'S CURRENT POLITICAL DIS-
ORDER ON EXTREMISTS OF "RIGHT" AND "LEFT" BUT, IN WHAT
WAS DESCRIBED AS CALM MANNER, EXPRESSED CONVICTION INDIAN
PEOPLE WOULD RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, BOTH POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC, THROUGH DEMOCRATIC MEANS, AS HAD BEEN DEMON-
STRATED IN RECENT UP ELECTIONS.
MOYNIHAN

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